

B1 at least one operating parameter including an oxygen concentration in an exhaust gas.

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B2 11. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of determining the oxygen concentration in the exhaust gas in accordance with operating parameters.

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16. (Amended) A device for controlling an internal combustion engine having an exhaust treatment system including a particle filter, comprising:

B3 a unit configured to determine a quantity characterizing a state of congestion of the particle filter in accordance with at least one operating parameter of the internal combustion engine, the at least one operating parameter including an oxygen concentration in an exhaust gas.---

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Please add new claim 17 as follows:

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17. (New) A method for controlling an internal combustion engine having an exhaust treatment system that includes a particle filter, comprising the steps of:

determining an initial particle emission rate by mapping at least one operating parameter to a characteristic map;

B4 modifying the initial particle emission rate based on ambient conditions to determine a modified particle emission rate;

determining an adjusted particle emission rate by multiplying the modified particle emission rate by a factor having a value based on a temperature within the exhaust treatment system; and

calculating a quantity characterizing a state of congestion of the particle filter by integrating the adjusted particle emission rate over time.

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